

REMARKS

There are now pending in this application Claims 1-25, of which Claims 18-20 and 22 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 21, 23, and 25 are independent. Claim 25 is newly added. No claims have been cancelled.

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the above application is respectfully sought.

There is accompanying this Amendment a substitute specification together with a marked-up version of the substitute specification showing all of the changes. The substitute specification does not include new matter.

Also accompanying this Amendment is a Request for Permission to Amend the Drawings. This Request seeks to label Figure 1 as --Prior Art-- in accordance with the Examiner's requirements. Favorable consideration thereon is respectfully sought.

The invention as set forth in independent Claim 1 is directed to an exposure apparatus for printing, by exposure, a pattern of an original on a substrate. The apparatus comprises a housing filled with a predetermined ambience for accommodating therein at least a portion of a light path of exposure light and a detection system having an optical system, wherein a portion of a light path of the detection system is disposed in a first space enclosed by the housing, and wherein at least another portion of the light path of the detection system including an electric element thereof is disposed in a second space outside the housing. Accordingly, Claim 1 as amended recites a detection system having an optical system wherein a portion of a light path of the detection system is disposed in a first space enclosed by the housing.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Taniguchi, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,137,349). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Taniguchi, et al. is directed to a projection-type optical apparatus in which a projection optical system projects an image of an object upon a substrate and includes a position detecting sensor mechanism connected to the projection optical system to detect the position of the projection optical system relative to the substrate along the optical axis of the projection optical system. Taniguchi, et al. shows a detection system 15A or 15B, but the light path of that detection system extends between the projection optical system 7 (housing) and the wafer W. Thus, it is outside the projection optical system housing 7. Accordingly, in Taniguchi, et al. the light path of the detection system is not disposed in a first space enclosed by the housing as required by independent Claim 1.

Independent Claims 21 and 23 incorporate the above-discussed features of Claim 1 and therefore are distinguishable over Taniguchi, et al. for reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 1.

Claims 21 and 23 were, however, rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taniguchi, et al. in view of Hill, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,330,065). However, Hill, et al. was cited for its teaching of a local area network and gateway for enabling an access from a local area network to an external network outside the factory. Hill, et al. is not understood to meet the above-discussed shortcomings of Taniguchi, et al. and therefore, even in combination with Taniguchi, et al., Hill, et al. does not invalidate independent Claims 21 or 23.

Claims 2-17 and 24 are dependent claims which depend either directly or indirectly from one of Claims 1 or 23. Accordingly, each of those dependent claims is patentable

over the art of record for reasons noted above with respect to Claims 1 and 23. In addition, each recite features of the invention still further distinguishing them from the applied art. Favorable and independent consideration thereof is respectfully sought.

New Claim 25 recites an exposure apparatus and incorporates a housing filled with a predetermined ambience and for accommodating therein at least a portion of a light path of exposure light together with a detection system including a light source, a light receiving element for receiving light from the light source and an optical system for directing light from the light source to the light receiving element. As recited in Claim 1, Claim 25 recites a detection system having an optical system, wherein a portion of a light path of the detection system is disposed in a first space enclosed by the housing. Thus, for reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 1, independent Claim 25 is likewise believed patentable over the applied art of record.

Applicant respectfully submits that all outstanding matters in the above application have been addressed and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the above application are respectfully sought.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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